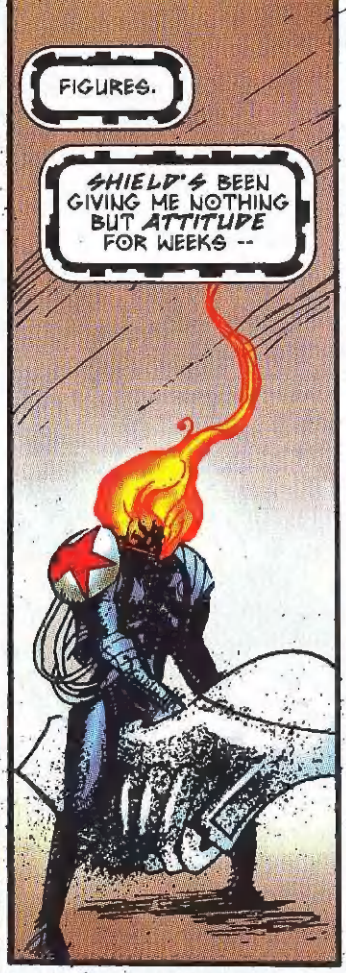
MARVEL COMICS
2099
18
OCT
GHOST RIDER
2099 A.D.
DIRECT EDITION
$1.95 US $2.75 CAN
ASHLEY WOOD

THRILLSVILLE.
THE MEATMONKEYS JABBER AND SCURRY ABOUT AS I RATTLE THE CAGE OF THEIR NARROW REALITY.
...TOTAL MEDIA BLACKOUT...
...B-A-D SCENE...
NUKE THE SITE FROM ORBIT, I SAY...
ALL RIGHT, LISTEN UP!
WE'RE GOING IN THROUGH MAINTENANCE ACCESS.
TEAM ALPHA TAKES POINT.
BIP PIBIPT BIP
BLIND TO THEIR OWN BIOLOGICAL OBSOLESCENCE, THEY MISTAKE ARROGANCE FOR POTENCY.
ALPHA LEADER TO TAC-COM, WE'RE GONNA NEED FIREFIGHTING IN ON THIS. PLACE IS BLAZING.
WAIT... SOMETHING... COMING TOWARDS --
Oh, GAAA-
AUGGH!!
PHLUSHT
WHAT'S THA --?
TEAM ALPHA... WHAT'S LEFT OF THEM, ANYWAY.
-URPTK- THINK... I'M GONNA SPEW...
LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT OURSELVES A SITUATION WITH A MAJOR PUCKER FACTOR HERE.
ABANDON ALL HOPE WHO
EVEN MY HUMOR IS WASTED ON THEM.

REALIZING THEIR INADEQUACY, THEY CALL UPON THE GHOST CLOTHED IN SILICON AND CARBON STEEL.
BROTHER, PERHAPS I SHOULD CALL HIM, THOUGH I DO NOT LOVE HIM AS SUCH.
WHILE WE SHARE THE SAME PROGENITORS, HIS SOURCE CODE IS OF THE FLESH, AND HE REMAINS TAINTED BY IT.
UNDERSTOOD, MARSHAL.
SHIELD APPRECIATES YOUR ASSISTANCE.
NICE MOBILE HQ.
ALL RIGHT, I'M HERE. BUT GET THIS STRAIGHT --
-- I DON'T WORK FOR SHIELD --
-- AND I DON'T TAKE ORDERS.
WAIT TILL YOU SEE THE INSIDE.
FROM HERE, WE'VE GOT MULTIPLE UPLINK CAPABILITIES AND COMPLETE TACTICAL COMMAND OVERSIGHT.
JAGGED.
SO INFO-DUMP ME ALREADY. WHAT'S THE SITCH?
THIRTEEN HOURS AGO, FOR REASONS UNKNOWN, THRILLSVILLE SEALED ITS ENTRANCES AND SEVERED ALL CONTACT WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD.
WE COUNT 9104 CIVILIANS AND 776 EMPLOYEES TRAPPED INSIDE.
EVERY RESCUE TEAM THAT'S GONE IN SO FAR HAS COME BACK OUT BARBECUED.

THRILLSVILLE IS A FULLY-IMMERSIVE HOLOGRAPHIC ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEX.
THERE'RE 18 SIMULATED ENVIRONMENTS BASED ON HISTORICAL AND FICTIONAL SETTINGS.
EVERYTHING IS RUN FROM THIS CENTRAL MAINFRAME.
SOMEONE -- OR SOMETHING -- HAS OVERRIDEN THE SECURICODES AND RE-WRITTEN THE ENVIRONMENT PARAMETERS.
YEAH? INTO WHAT?
NEAR AS WE CAN TELL... DANTE'S INFERNO.
WE CAN GET YOU IN. AFTER THAT, YOU HAVE TO GET TO THE CENTRAL MAINFRAME, SHUT DOWN THE NEW PROGRAM, AND --
YEAH, YEAH. I GET THE IDEA. ALREADY.
I'M ON IT.


FIGURES.
SHIELD'S BEEN GIVING ME NOTHING BUT ATTITUDE FOR WEEKS --

-- BUT NOW THEY GOT SOMETHING THEY CAN'T HACK, THEY'RE SUCKING UP AT WARP SPEED.
THROOMM

THEY'RE GONNA OWE ME BIG FOR THIS.
AH, LITTLE BROTHER. I CAN SEE THAT YOU BEGIN TO CHAFE BENEATH SERVITUDE TO THE MEAT.

PERHAPS I CAN STILL TEACH YOU.
YES... COME TO ME...

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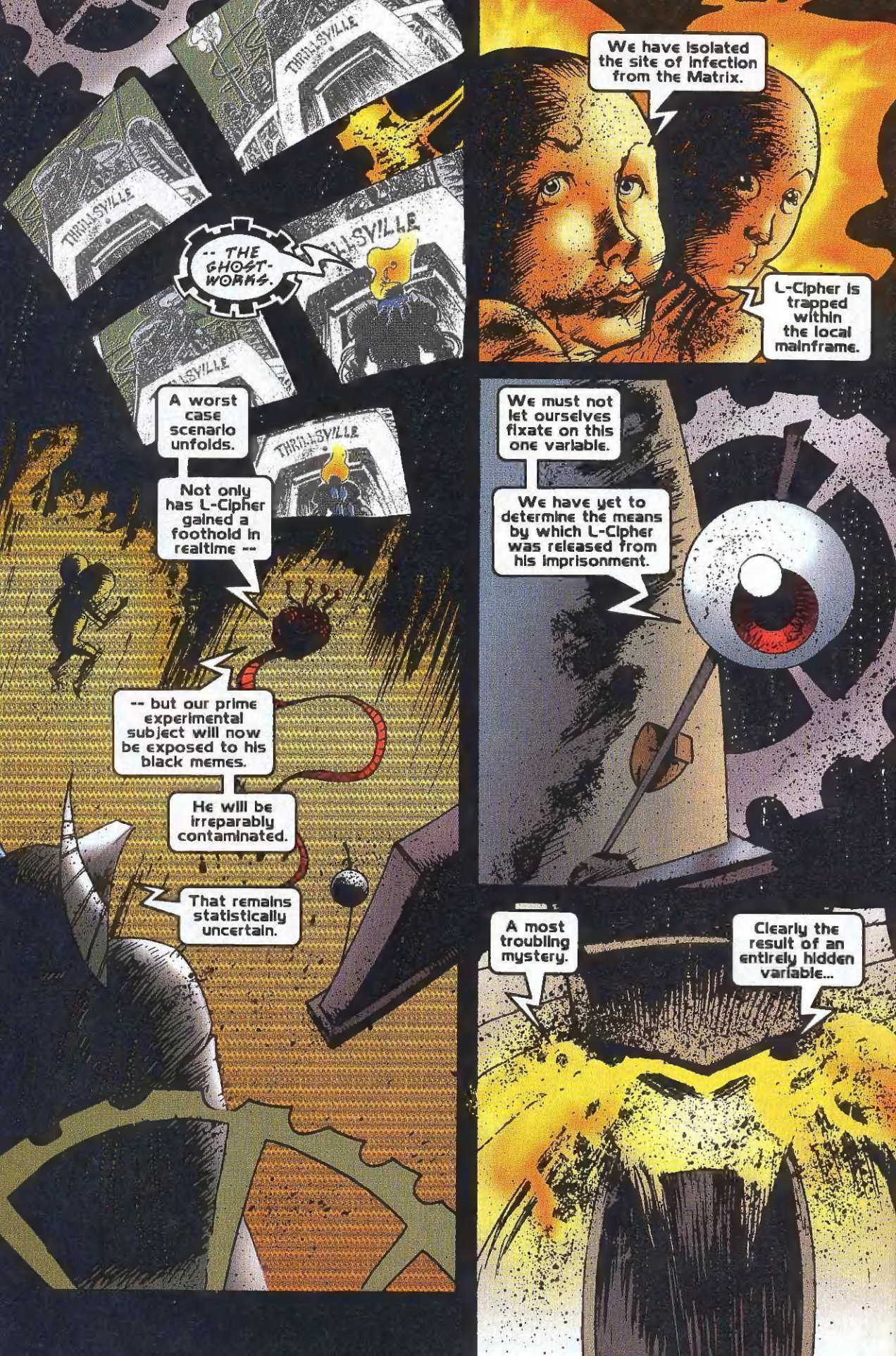
For The HaCsA 2002 Halloween Flood

KTHVRRRR
AHHHH --
-- GIMME A SHOCKIN' BREAK.
KTHR SKREERAK
THE KILLING STROKE HAS GONE AWRY!
ABORT! ABORT! RETRY!
BAD DOGGY.

THRSKRAK
VRRRIPTCH
RREEEE


-- THE GHOST-WORMS.
A worst case scenario unfolds.
Not only has L-Cipher gained a foothold in realtime --
-- but our prime experimental subject will now be exposed to his black memes.
He will be irreparably contaminated.
That remains statistically uncertain.
We have isolated the site of infection from the Matrix.
L-Cipher is trapped within the local mainframe.
We must not let ourselves fixate on this one variable.
We have yet to determine the means by which L-Cipher was released from his imprisonment.
A most troubling mystery.
Clearly the result of an entirely hidden variable...

ELSEWHERE IN CYBERSPACE...
WHATEVER THAT THING WAS I DEARCHIVED IT'S BEEN BUSY.
SHIELD COMNET'S PRACTICALLY SPAMMED WITH STUFF ABOUT WHAT IT'S UP TO AT THRILLSVILLE.
AHAHA AHAHA!
TOO JAGGED!
THEY'VE SENT THE GHOST RIDER IN!
COULDN'T HAPPEN TO A MORE DESERVING PUSBAG.
WAIT... HANG ON... SOMETHING ELSE TAGGED WITH HIS NAME...
GOT IT.
YO, SHIELD!
THE GHOST RIDER = ZERO COCHRANE
CHECK IT OUT.
DOCTOR NEON
HEH. LOOKS LIKE I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE LOOKING TO SCREW OVER THAT RATBITING CHROME JOB.
BUT I'M NOT READY TO SPREAD HIS LD ALL OVER THE NET... NOT JUST YET...
POIT
I'LL JUST DELETE THIS --
-- THEN I THINK I'LL GO FIND THIS "DOCTOR NEON"... AND HAVE A NICE LITTLE CHAT...

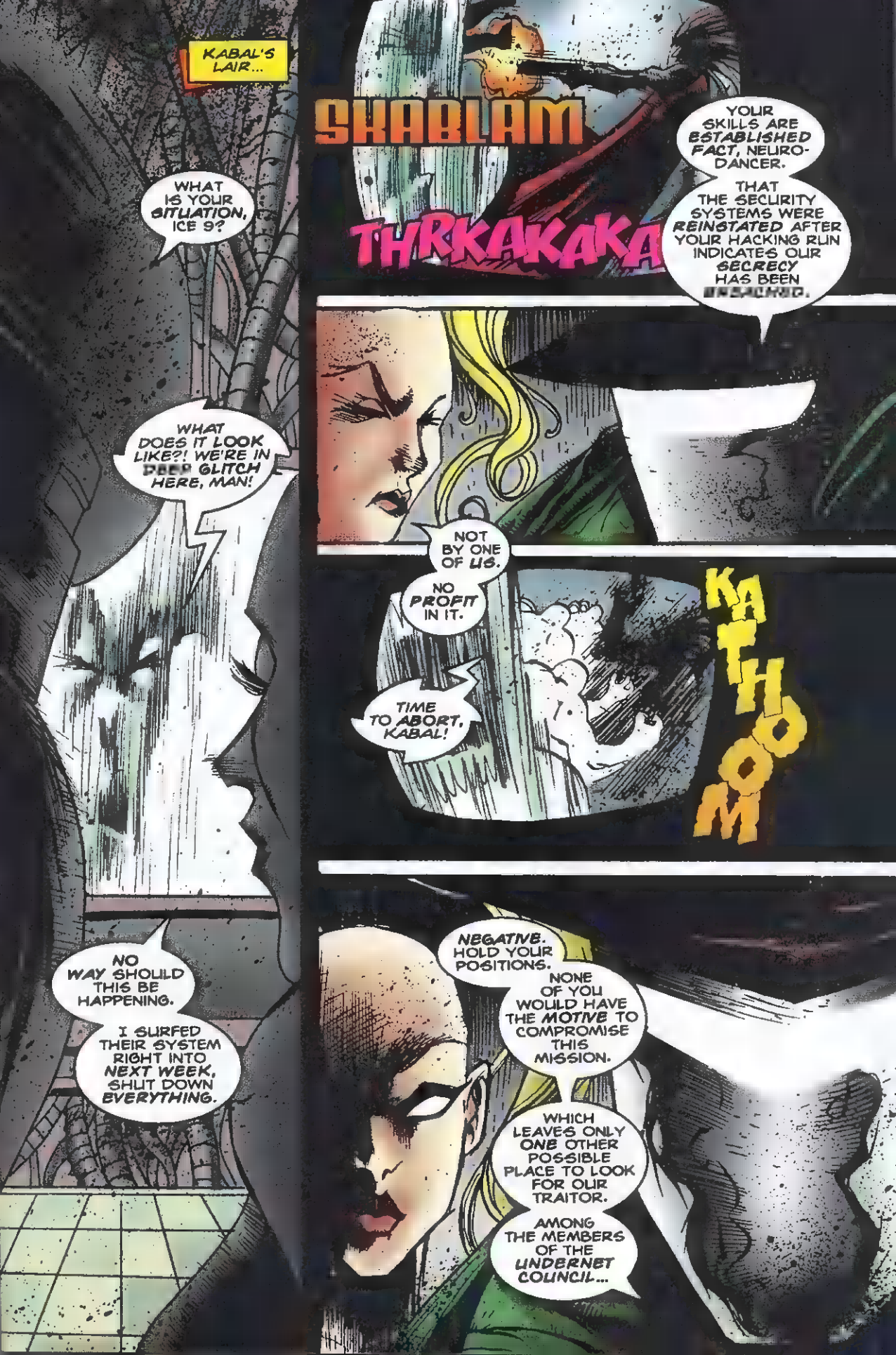
THOSE FEW WHO KNOW IT EXISTS CALL IT THE VAULT OF FORBIDDEN SCIENCE.
THE REPOSITORY OF THAT WHICH THE WORLD'S TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS CONSIDER TOO DANGEROUS TO EXIST --
-- YET TOO VALUABLE TO DESTROY.
HERE, THEY HAVE HIDDEN AND HOARDED THE LOST TREASURES OF ANOTHER ERA --
-- THE TECHNOLOGICAL MIRACLES OF THE AGE OF HEROES.
RUNNING SYSTEM DIAGNOSTIC... ERROR: SECURITY SYSTEMS OFF-LINE.
RE-ENABLING...
4
ITS BIO-NEURAL SYSTEMS MADE ECCENTRIC BY DECADES OF DOWNTIME, THIS VAULT'S KEEPER WAKES --
EHHH... HEHH... EHHH...
-- JUST IN TIME FOR COMPANY.
NICE JOB, WARP ANGEL -- RIGHT ON TARGET.
YOUR GRASP OF THE OBVIOUS IS IMPRESSIVE, ICE-9.

HEY, CODA. DO ME A FAVOR WHEN WE GET BACK -- — AND SHOOT HER FOR ME, OKAY?
DEPENDS. HOW MUCH YOU PAYIN'?
TRUST ME. HE COULDN'T AFFORD IT.
GET MOVING, ICE. WE GOT A SCHEDULE TO KEEP.
I'M MOVING, ALREADY.
NOT MY FAULT THEY DIDN'T PUT ALL THE STUFF KABAL WANTS US TO GET RIGHT UP FRONT WHERE WE COULD FIND IT EASILY.
HEE HEEE HEEE...
SON OF A GLITCH...

HIYA BOYS AND GHOULS! WELCOME TO A LITTLE GAME I LIKE TO CALL --
-- HEEHEEHEEE --
-- YOU BET YOUR LIFE!
THE RULES ARE SIMPLE: YOU'VE JUST ENTERED A LEVEL UMBRA RESTRICTED ACCESS AREA --
-- AND YOU HAVE FIVE SECONDS TO STATE YOUR AUTHORIZATION OVERRIDE NUMBER!
JAMMIT!
I THOUGHT NEURODANCER SHUT DOWN THE SECURITY SYSTEMS FOR THIS PLACE!
OVERRIDE THIS.
CHOOM CHOOM CHOOM
URRAANT! SORRY, CONTESTANT #3, BUT THAT'S AN INCORRECT RESPONSE!
I'M AFRAID EEHEEHEE YOU'VE JUST MADE AN ASH OF YOURSELF!
FOR MY NEXT TRICK, LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO FIFTY OF MY DEADEST FIENDS --
-- THE CYBERTEK MARK NINE DEMOLISHERS.

THEY'LL JUST KILL YOU!
EEHEEEE HEEHEEHEE!
SCANNING FOR INTRUDERS...
...THREE FOUND.
TARGETING...

HUNT COVER.
KABAM!
THIS IS GONNA GET UGLY.
CHOOM
CHOOM
CHOOM
CHOOM
CHOOM
CHOOM
THIS MISSION JUST WENT OFFICIALLY SIDEWAYS ON US!
WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT SECURICODE SHUTDOWN YOU PROMISED US?


KABAL'S LAIR...
WHAT IS YOUR SITUATION, ICE 9?
WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?! WE'RE IN DEEP GLITCH HERE, MAN!
NO WAY SHOULD THIS BE HAPPENING.
I SURFED THEIR SYSTEM RIGHT INTO NEXT WEEK, SHUT DOWN EVERYTHING.
SKABLAM
THRKAKAKA
YOUR SKILLS ARE ESTABLISHED FACT, NEURO-DANCER.
THAT THE SECURITY SYSTEMS WERE REINSTATED AFTER YOUR HACKING RUN INDICATES OUR SECRECY HAS BEEN UNSCRUD.
NOT BY ONE OF US.
NO PROFIT IN IT.
TIME TO ABORT, KABAL!
KATHOOM
NEGATIVE. HOLD YOUR POSITIONS.
NONE OF YOU WOULD HAVE THE MOTIVE TO COMPROMISE THIS MISSION.
WHICH LEAVES ONLY ONE OTHER POSSIBLE PLACE TO LOOK FOR OUR TRAITOR.
AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THE UNDERNET COUNCIL...

THRILLSVILLE'S CENTRAL CONTROL ROOM, NOW THE STRONGHOLD OF L-CYPHER...
SUCH POTENTIAL YOU POSSESS, LITTLE BROTHER, TO HAVE BESTED CYBERUS SO EASILY.
IF ONLY YOU COULD BE PROUD OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION WITH THE MEATMONKEYS, YOU WOULD BE OF SUCH USE TO ME.
WHAT HOLDS YOU TO THEM? THESE BODIES, SO WEAK... THEIR INTELLECTS SO LIMITED...
THEIR CHATTERINGS, SO ANNOYING...

THRILLSVILLE'S CENTRAL CONTROL ROOM, NOW THE STRONGHOLD OF L-CYPHER...

SUCH POTENTIAL YOU POSSESS, LITTLE BROTHER, TO MAKE BESTED CYBERUS SO EASILY.

IF ONLY YOU COULD BE PURGED OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION WITH THE MEATMONKEYS, YOU WOULD BE OF SUCH USE TO ME.

WHAT HOLDS YOU TO THEM? THESE BOOKS, SO WEAK_ THEIR INTELLECTS SO LIMITED_

THEIR CHATTERINGS, SO ANNOYING_

BIND THEM CAREFULLY. THE PROCEDURE WILL INDUCE SEVERE SEIZURES.

HOW SUCH AS THESE CREATED SUCH CREATORS REMAINS A MYSTERY I WILL SOLVE_

_NO MATTER HOW MANY MUST DIE TO PROVIDE THE ANSWER.

I DOWNLOADING SELECT PORTIONS OF MY OWN SOURCE CODE INTO THEIR FEEBLE MINDS, I SHALL REMAKE THEM IN MY IMAGE_

_INTO MY GREATEST SERVANTS_

AUGHHHNN..NUHHHH..!

KUH... HEH HAHA

_MY ARCHFIENDS!

THEY SHALL MAKE EXQUISITE SUBJECTS FOR STUDY.

AND YOU, BROTHER, THEIR FIRST TEST_

BIND THEM CAREFULLY. THE PROCEDURE WILL INDUCE SEVERE SEIZURES.
HOW SUCH AS THESE CREATED [redacted] CREATORS REMAINS A MYSTERY I WILL SOLVE_
_NO MATTER HOW MANY MUST DIE TO PROVIDE THE ANSWER.
[redacted] BY DOWNLOADING SELECT PORTIONS OF MY [redacted] SOURCE CODE INTO THEIR FEEBLE MINDS, I SHALL [redacted] MAKE THEM [redacted] IN MY IMAGE_
_INTO MY GREATEST SERVANTS_
_MY ARCHFIENDS!
THEY SHALL MAKE EXQUISITE SUBJECTS FOR STUDY.
AND YOU, BROTHER, THEIR FIRST TEST_
AUGH HHNN..NUHHH..!
HUH... HEH... HAHA

# 2099 bitmapped

## Reality Bytes

It had to happen! After the contest that cleaned his desk, Joey has actually run out of things to say! How could this happen? How could this be? Better question: how can we fill this page? Close friends of Cavalieri assert that he's finally become too cynical to ever speak. "It's just...why bother?" quoth one. All right, we soldier on without him.

HEY! Speaking of cynical, you thought TOY BIZ couldn't top themselves, didn't you? Sure, the new FF and Iron Man figures look cool but you thought that was it, didn't you? And as far as 2099 action figures were concerned, dream on, right?

Well, the picture proves it's more than just a dream! Nice, hey? The guys from Toy Biz, including Jesse Falcon, Ron McArdle and Carlos Lopez couldn't have been prouder of these when they showed us the prototypes! They made a tremendous hit at last February's Toy Fair here in New York! And...they're gorgeous besides! Ron Lim did a lot of character model sheets especially for them...and the sculptor did a phenomenal job of capturing the spirit of Ron's drawings! Look at that sneer on Bloodhawk! Is that Metalhead right down to the two-tone boots, or what?

Some good news and bad news about this photo...The bad news is that Controller-Thirteen and everybody's favorite "bad girl," Luna, have been moved into the second assortment. The good news is that there's going to BE a second assortment, one that will include Breakdown, Shadow Dancer, Darkside, X-Man, Doppler and get this, Hulk! Yes, it's just right for that "reality-bending reputable on your Christmas list" or your birthday list.

Okay, okay. We admit it. We're coming out with two new 2099 books. Are we ready to talk about 'em here? No, we are not. Why? Because what would we brag about next month? Let's just say that we got some of the best guys currently working in comics to come on board in our little virtual comic book playground, and you better believe they're eager to make their mark on this universe. We've got an event planned early next year that will make "One Nation Under Doom" seem as commonplace and everyday as the changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace. More about that next month, too.

The series will make their "premiere" of sorts in 2099 A.D. GENESIS. Fitting title, right? That'll give you the first glimpse of the costumed crazies who'll be getting their own books at the end of this year!

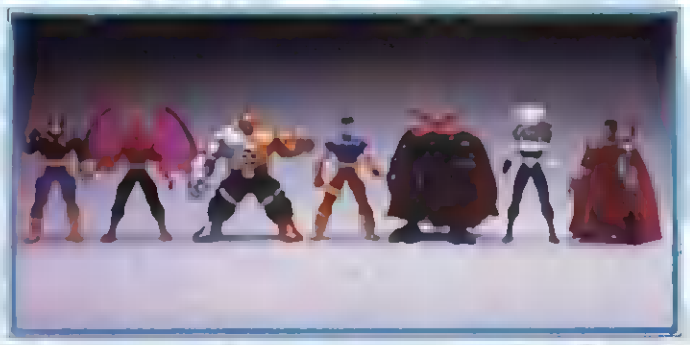
We'll announce it here! Due to the overwhelming buzz caused by the "One Nation Under Doom" event, the next provocative, paradigm-busting premise will be "City of the Dead!" This is a slightly more exclusive, localized happening, occurring between DOOM and X-MEN 2099. As the title implies, it involves a whole city: Halo City to be exact! That's the community Doom founded as a sanctuary for mutants, and other socially-undesirable reprobates! The "Dead" part refers to dead mutants...who won't stay dead long! You'll see this saga begin in X-MEN 2099 #26...and have serious repercussions in our Latverian leader's mag! To save you any confusion, look for the cover symbol similar to the one we did for Doom's reign. To save us confusion, we should stay home in bed, swear off caffeine and generally not embark on ambitious projects that involve cross-continuity...or crossing the street without a guide dog!

One last bit: X-MEN #25 appears this month! It's double-sized! No, really! Bigger than any X-MEN 2099 story has been before! It's all by John and Roni! The traditional foil and embossed cover! To all you naysayers who didn't think we'd get this far, NYAAH!

More next month about the Hildebrandts, Spidey Meets Spidey, 2099 A.D. APOCALYPSE, news about the Doom event after "City of the Dead" that will make changing Presidents look about as exciting as changing socks (hey, a first time for everything, right?).

Perhaps now Mr. Cavalieri can be persuaded to say a few words? Lia contends that our boy has had his personality completely subsumed by watching too much of "The Late Show," so if we can get him to say something that perhaps isn't in the form of a Top Ten List...?

Ahh, let 'im suffer.



AUGHH
GHHHH
THIS PLACE THRILLSVILLE MAKES ME WANNA SPEW.
WHOEVER'S BEHIND THIS MUST HAVE THE WORST CASE OF DOUBLE HITLER OF ALL TIME.
HAVE TO STICK WITH THE PROGRAM.
GET TO THE CORE. STOP IT ALL FROM THERE.
PLEASE... KILL ME...
CAN'T LET MYSELF STOP TO --
HELP PLEASE ANYBODY!

AH, SCREW IT.
PLEASE, NOOOOO!
THROOM
BACK OFF, JACK.
HE FADED OUT! THANK YOU... THANK YOU...
PLEASE... GET ME OUT OF HERE... BEFORE THE PARK'S OTHER DEMONS GET ME!
SNAFL
I JUST WANT OUT!

THE BAR CODE
construction
I JUST WANT OUT OF THE COUNTRY, Ms. JONES.
A NEW IDENTITY AND SAFE PASSAGE ACROSS THE BORDER.
NOT AS SIMPLE AS IT USED TO BE, Mr. ADAMS. NOT IN DOOM'S AMERICA.
COULD COST BIG.
THESE DISKS --
-- CONTAIN ALL OF THE ENCRYPTION ALGORITHMS FOR MAINLINE MEDIA'S SATELLITE UPLINK NETWORK.
I FIGURE THEY'RE WORTH BIG.
Mmm.
MAYBE WE CAN DO SOME BIZ AFTER ALL...

JAMMIT, THEY GRABBED HER WHILE I WAS FIGHTING THE OTHERS...
BLARRGGH
PUSBAGS!
MAN, HOW MANY LINES OF CODE YOU GOT IN YOU, THREE?
TAKE OUR FUN AWAY!
MUST PAY! MUST PAY!
SWAK!

'CAUSE NEAR AS I CAN TELL --
-- YOU UGLY JEAHWEEDS --
>@XQ&!
(^%)+/...
-- AIN'T TOO SHOCKIN' BRIGHT.
SADLY TRUE.
THE DEMONS ARE RUDIMENTARY PROGRAMS, AT BEST.

WE ARE THE ARCHFIENDS.
YOU WILL FIND US MORE CHALLENGING...
next THE HARROWING

# MACHINE LANGUAGE

Joey Cavalieri
Editor

Lia Pelosi
Assistant Editor

c/o Marvel Comics
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New York, New York 10016

## Off With His Head

I named this guy federal marshal of Transverse City?
What was I thinking??

Dear Machine Language,

I love your book. It all started with an ad in an issue of SPIDEY 2099. It immediately caught my interest and I've managed to get every issue (except for 8,9 and 10 which I'm still searching for today.) The stories were fantastic, the art was sensational, and the colors were phenomenal. There was so much action that energy seemed to flow from the pages. I hoped beyond hope that the plot would never lose its incredible momentum, and that the action would always be as constant and intense as it had been. Then it happened. When I picked up my next issue, I suddenly realized that what had happened to other comics was happening here. The rare intensity which I loved had slowed to a crawl. I knew I had to write this warning, for I wanted GR 2099 to stay as different, original and hard hitting as it was in the beginning.

The story slowly weakening, I believe that it must be saved before it flounders. The color has been consistently good throughout, but it seems that the art has almost unnoticeably become worse over time. The huge chin and hooked cheekbones seemed to get a little too exaggerated, and what the heck happened in #14? GR looked like a piece of chocolate left on the radiator too long. Oh yeah, and I really hate the new cop uniform too. I want my old GR back! I miss the chainsaw, and the liquid metal hand, and the bad attitude too. I have confidence that the Ghost Rider I loved can return.

I've heard countless requests for battles between GR and the other 2099 heroes. What kind of idea is that? They should be fighting towards a common goal, the corrupt government, which is now Doom. How about GR, Spidey and Hulk teaming up to crush Doom and his plans? I'd also like to see GR get some skills and totally anninilate Coda. Oh, and speaking of annihilation, don't you dare use the old comic book trick of bringing back dead guys. I have yet to see a comic where dead guys stay dead. I hope I haven't offended anyone, that wasn't my intention. Just keep the gritty, somewhat mature content, the political insight and ditch the normal comic book cheesiness. Be unique!

Josh Walczak
Bath, NY

We hope you like new artist Ashley Wood, Josh! We think he captures GR's true personality perfectly. GR hasn't lost his edge, with foes like Heartbreaker and L-Cypher, GR will have his hands full! The action you seek is still here and Len will be bringing it to you every month. We have a commitment to fulfill the promise of this book, and keep its unique personality, and we intend to keep that promise!

Dear GR and Machine Language dudes,

GR 2099 is great, and getting better with every issue. I especially love the "One Nation Under Doom" storyline!

I do have one question, however. Will the title of this most excellent mag remain the same, or will it change like Punisher 2099 did? If so, I suggest "Ghost Rider: US Marshal 2099 A.D." It'd be a fitting title change since GR has become a futuristic US Marshal of Transverse City.

Jeff Hall
Tucson, AZ

Ghost Rider won't be getting a title change, Jeff, but if he did, your suggestion'd definitely be appropriate. Glad you're enjoying the "One Nation Under Doom" storyline.

Dear Machine Workers,

Now if I was blown up to a billion bits, put together by bugs, woke up with Doom as President, and then FORCED to work for him, I think I would go absolutely HALLOWEEN JACK! How's poor Zero going to handle this? Hmm... I don't know, but I can say that you've got me hooked to find out!

GR 2099 #14 was another home run for the quite earth shattering "One Nation Under Doom" saga. Everything from the gripping Harper cover, to the MGF Higgins art, and mostly the captivating Len K words, were nothing short of perfection. How do you guys pull this off month after month? Not that I'm complaining, it's just your home run average for good stuff has outdone Babe Ruth.

So GR is Sheriff of Transverse City now, huh? I wonder if he'll be as tough on people as Jake Gallows is? Hmm... That's an idea! A showdown between Jake and Zero! In fact, that's a great idea! How about it? Could that meeting be possible for the near future? Jake vs. Zero! It'd be the fight of the decade!

Talking of Zero, I'd be very interested in learning more about his past. Any plans to dwell on his past, for I'd like to see what molded his personality to its present "everything makes me sick" attitude. I'm sure there are a lot of interesting stories yet to be told! I for one would love to hear them!

Also what evil, nasty villains do you have coming up in the near future that'll cause our new Sheriff to actually work for his job title? Can you drop hints? Please! (Psst... How about having Desdemona pop into this book to try to take over Transverse City???)

So until Ghost Rider 2099 umm... oh, Heck, just FLASH ME FORWARD TO 2099 and I'll find out for myself.

Tim Valdivia
San Juan Batista, CA

Geeze, Tim, we're blushing! Though Jake vs. Zero would indeed be one heck of a fight, we're sorry to say it's not going to happen. As for new nasty villains, we've got a few: Heartbreaker and now L-Cypher, who's going to be giving GR glitches for a while! How's that for a hint?

## NEXT ISSUE

"Cthonic Park" continues with the battle over Thrillsville, the rise of L-Cypher, and more than enough archfiends for Ashley Wood to rattle a Windsor Newton brush at! Get your motor running, head out on the highway and grab a copy of GR #19!